

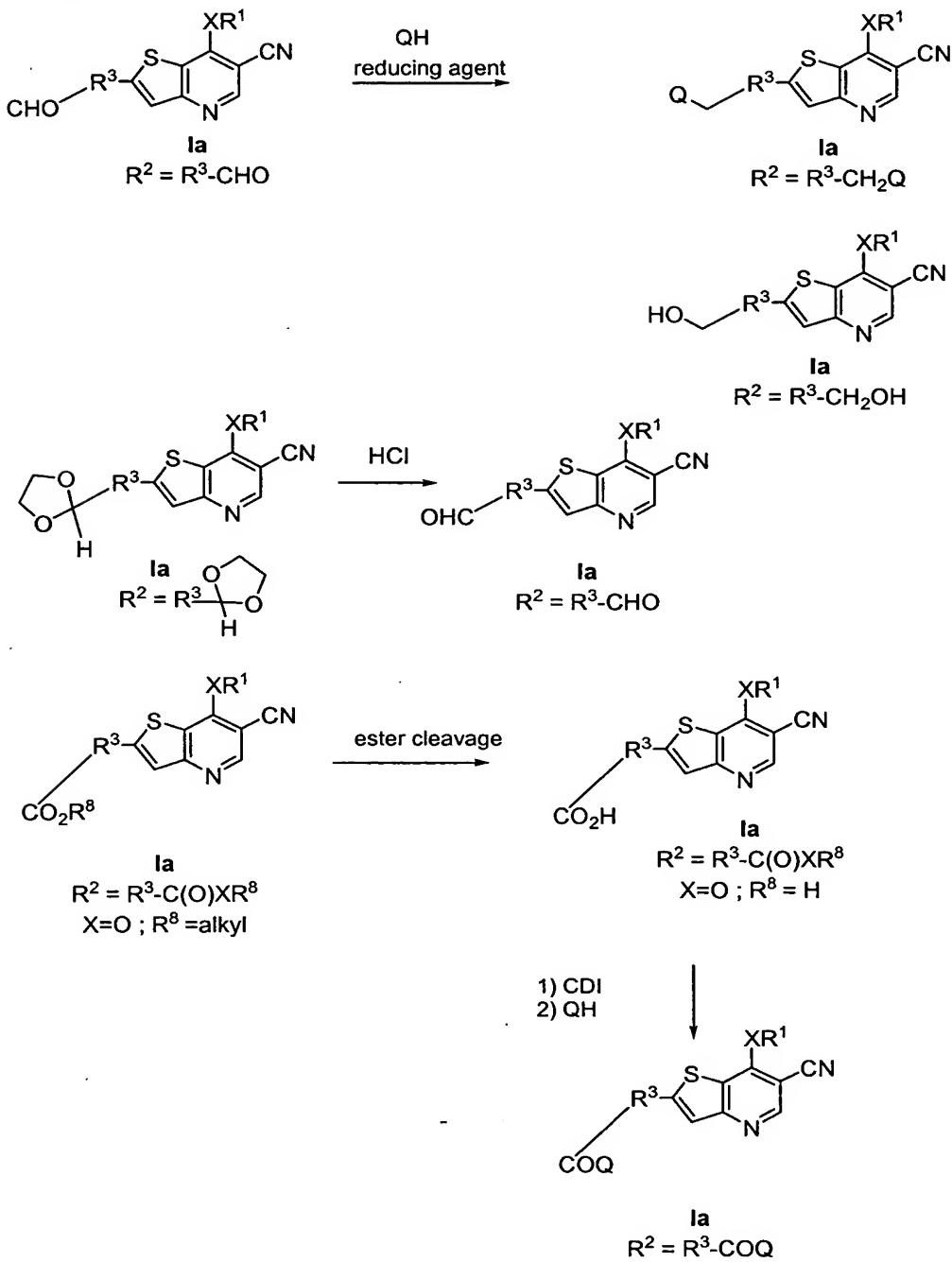
IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 47, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 14 as follows:

Scheme 5 also depicts the preparation of compounds of formula **Ia** where the group R² is $R^3(C(R^8)_{27})_q-CO_2H$ $R^3-C(O)XR^8$, wherein X is O and R⁸ is H, and $R^3(C(R^8)_{27})_q-COQ$ or $R^3-C(O)Q$ from compounds of formula **Ia** where the group R² is $R^3(C(R^8)_{27})_q-CO_2R^4$ $R^3-C(O)XR^8$, wherein X is O and R⁸ is lower alkyl. Compounds Esters of formula **Ia** where the group R² is $R^3(C(R^8)_{27})_q-CO_2R^4$ $R^3-C(O)XR^8$, wherein X is O and R⁸ is lower alkyl, are converted to the corresponding acids of formula **Ia** where the group R² is $R^3(C(R^8)_{27})_q-CO_2H$ by treatment with aqueous sodium hydroxide in a cosolvent such as ethanol at elevated temperatures. The corresponding amides of formula **Ia** where the group R² is $R^3(C(R^8)_{27})_q-Q$ $R^3-C(O)Q$ are prepared by treatment of the acid with N,N-carbonyldiimidazole or alternatively thionyl chloride or the like, followed by the addition of an amine of formula QH.

On page 48, please replace Scheme 5 with the following:

Scheme 5

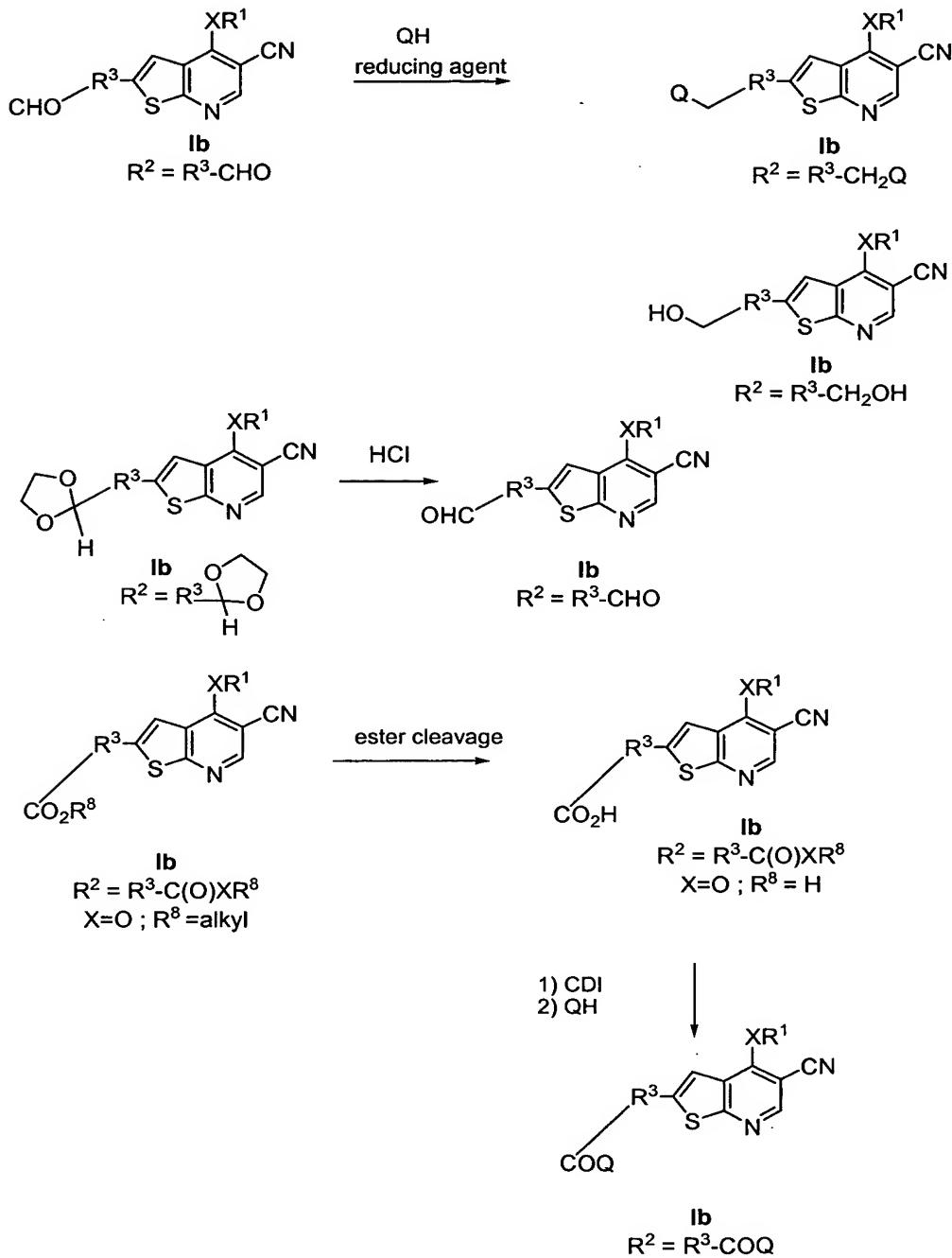


On page 57, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 13 as follows:

Scheme 9 also depicts the preparation of compounds of formula **Ib** where the group R² is R³-substituted with $(C(R^8)_{2q})_q-CO_2H$ $R^3-C(O)XR^8$, wherein X is O and R⁸ is H, and $(C(R^8)_{2q})_q-COQ$ or $R^3-C(O)Q$ from compounds of formula **Ib** where the group R² is R³ substituted by $(C(R^8)_{2q})_q-CO_2R^4$ $R^3-C(O)XR^8$, wherein X is O and R⁸ is lower alkyl. Compounds Esters of formula **Ib** where the group R² is R³-substituted with $(C(R^8)_{2q})_q-CO_2R^4$ $R^3-C(O)XR^8$, wherein X is O and R⁸ is lower alkyl, are converted to the corresponding acids of formula **Ib** where the group R² is R³-substituted by $(C(R^8)_{2q})_q-CO_2H$ by treatment with aqueous sodium hydroxide in a cosolvent such as ethanol at elevated temperatures. The corresponding amides of formula **Ib** where the group R² is R³-substituted with $(C(R^8)_{2q})_q-COQ$ $R^3-C(O)Q$ are prepared by treatment of the acids with N,N-carbonyldiimidazole or alternatively thionyl chloride or the like, followed by the addition of an amine of formula QH.

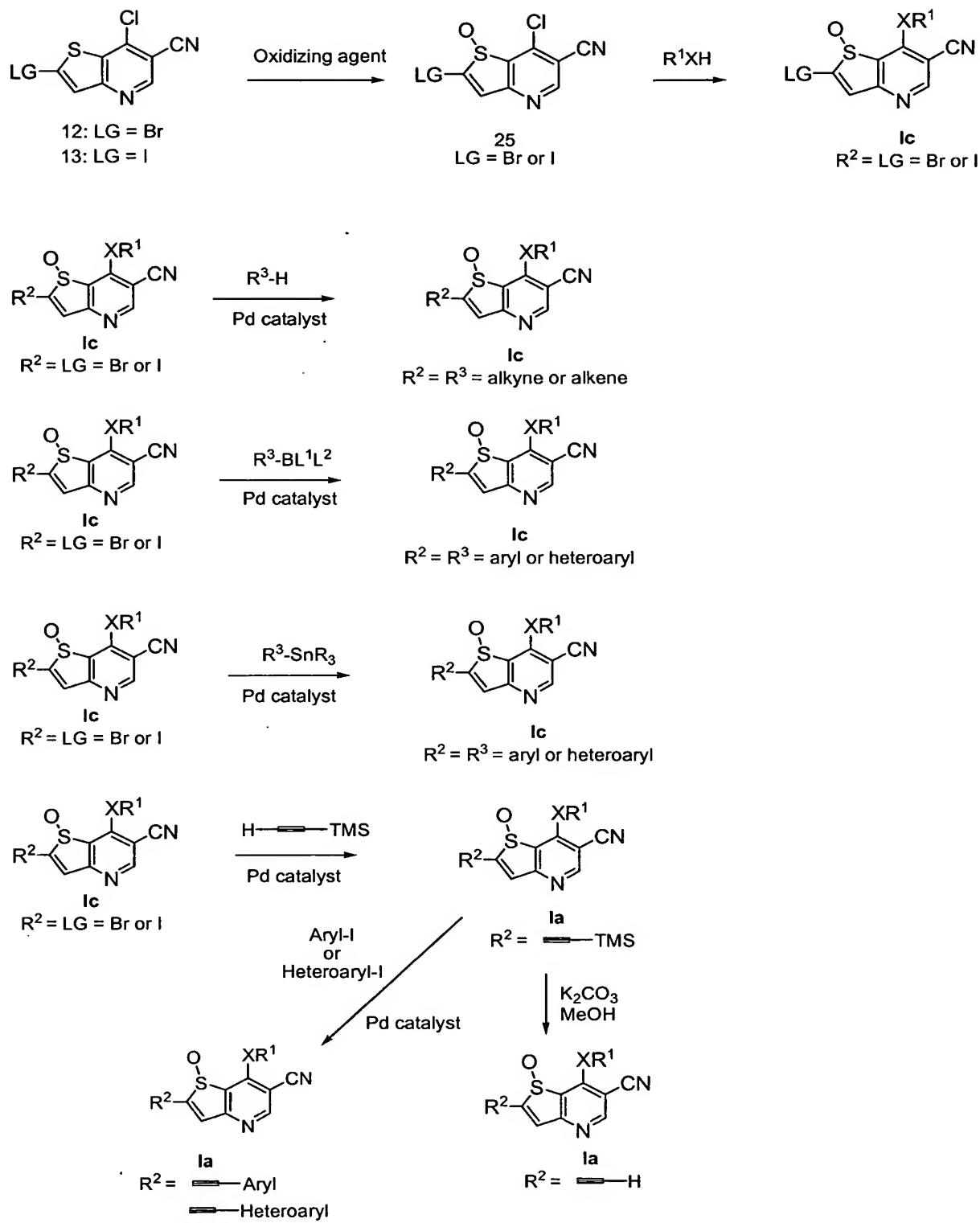
On page 58, please replace Scheme 9 with the following:

Scheme 9



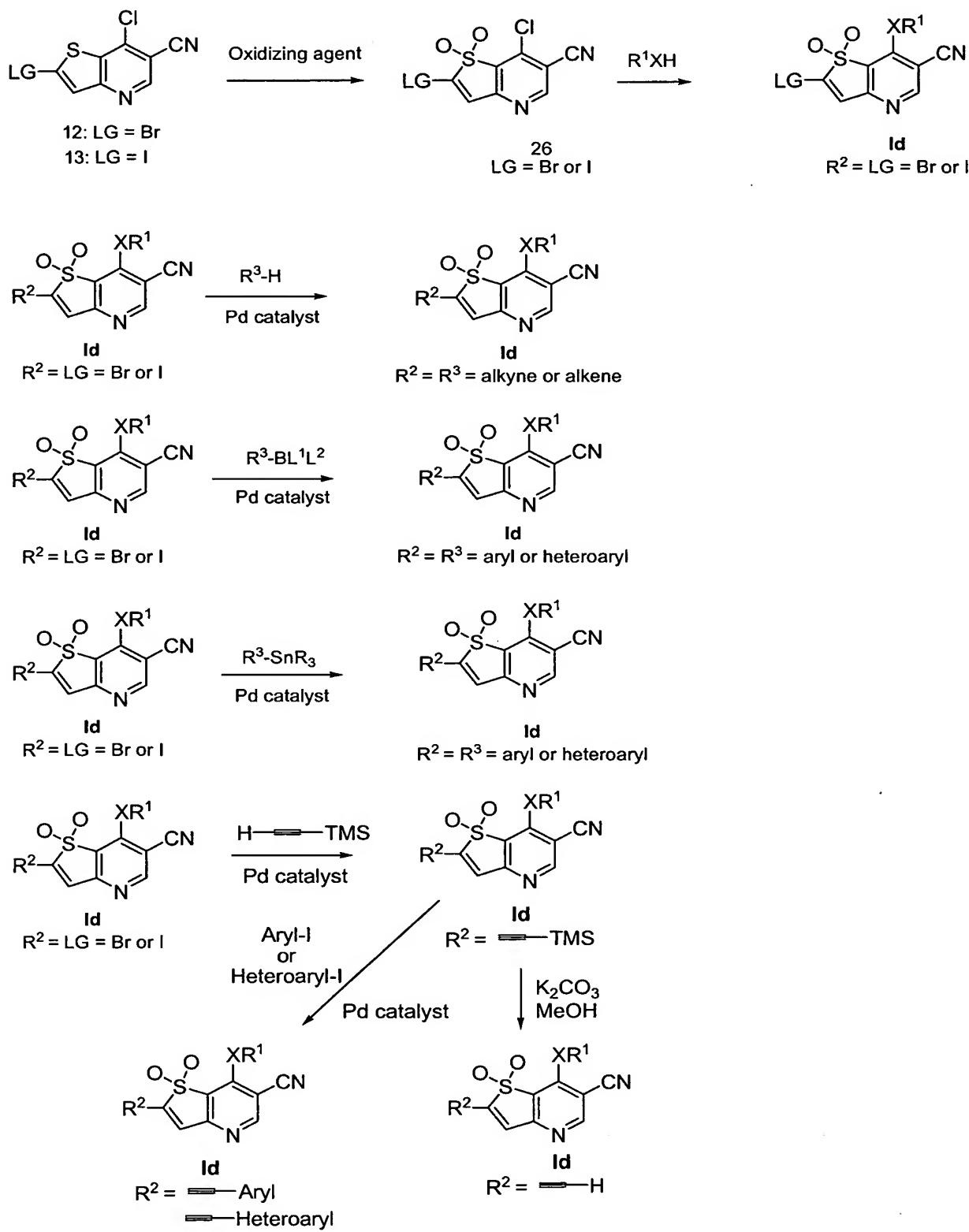
On page 62, please replace Scheme 10 with the following:

Scheme 10



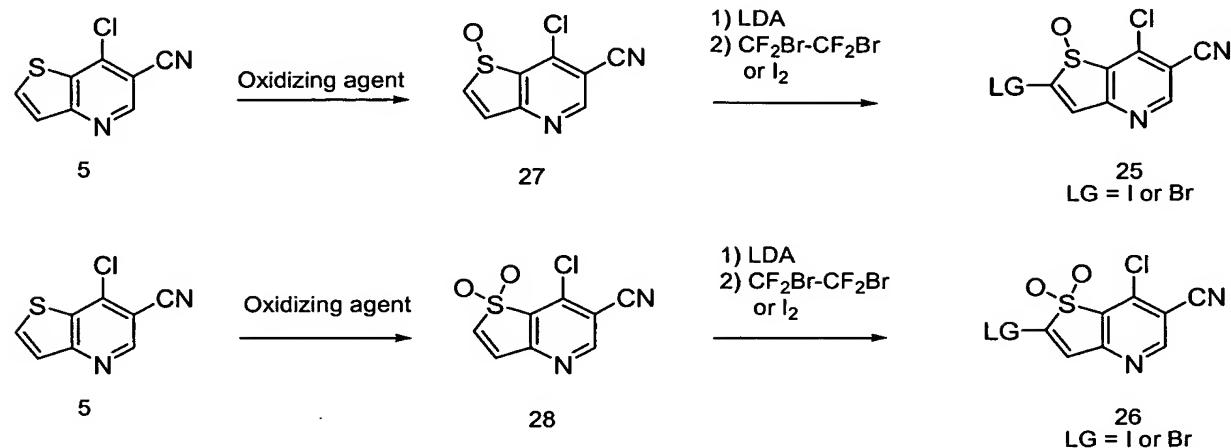
On page 66, please replace Scheme 11 with the following:

Scheme 11



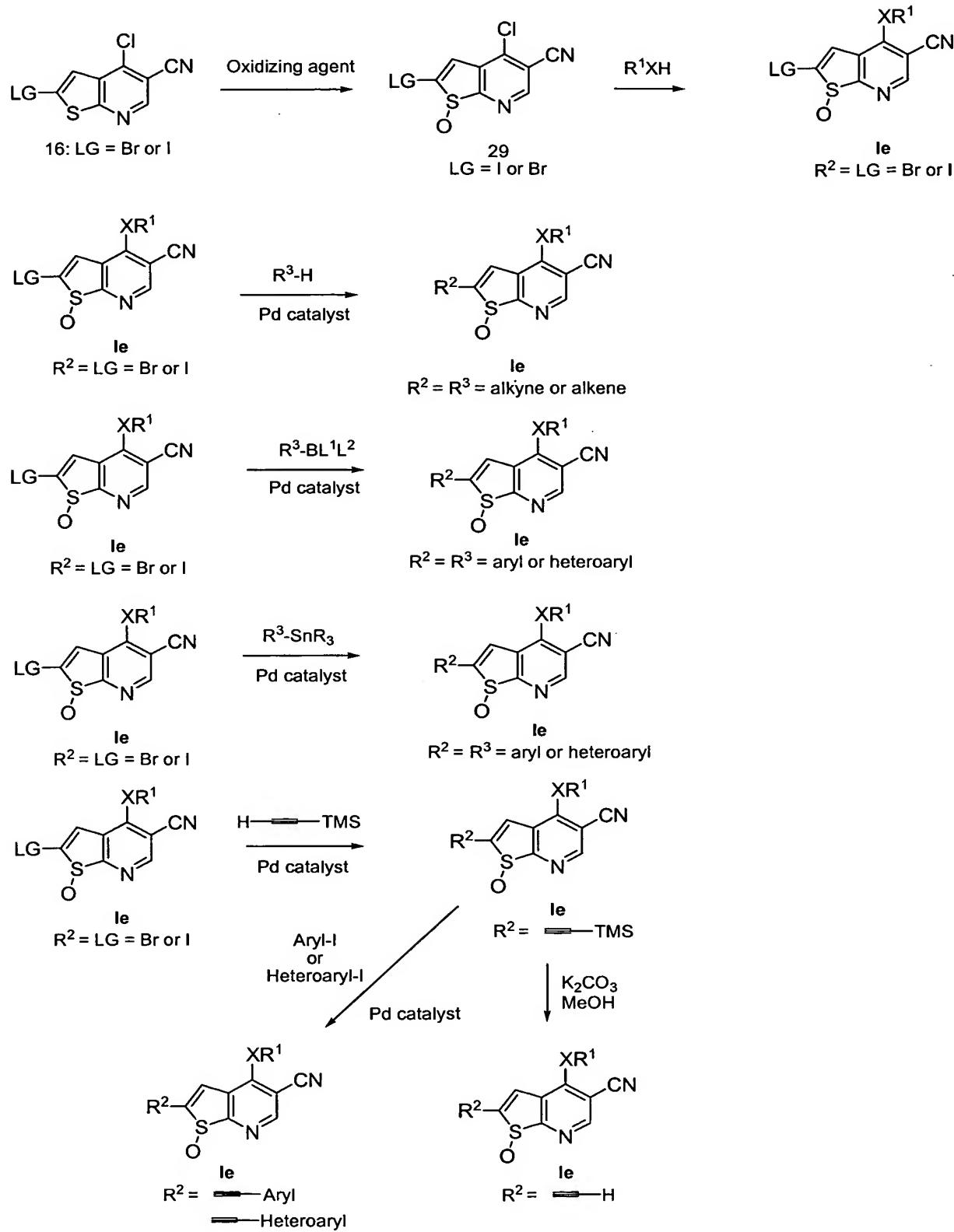
On page 67, please replace Scheme 12 with the following:

Scheme 12



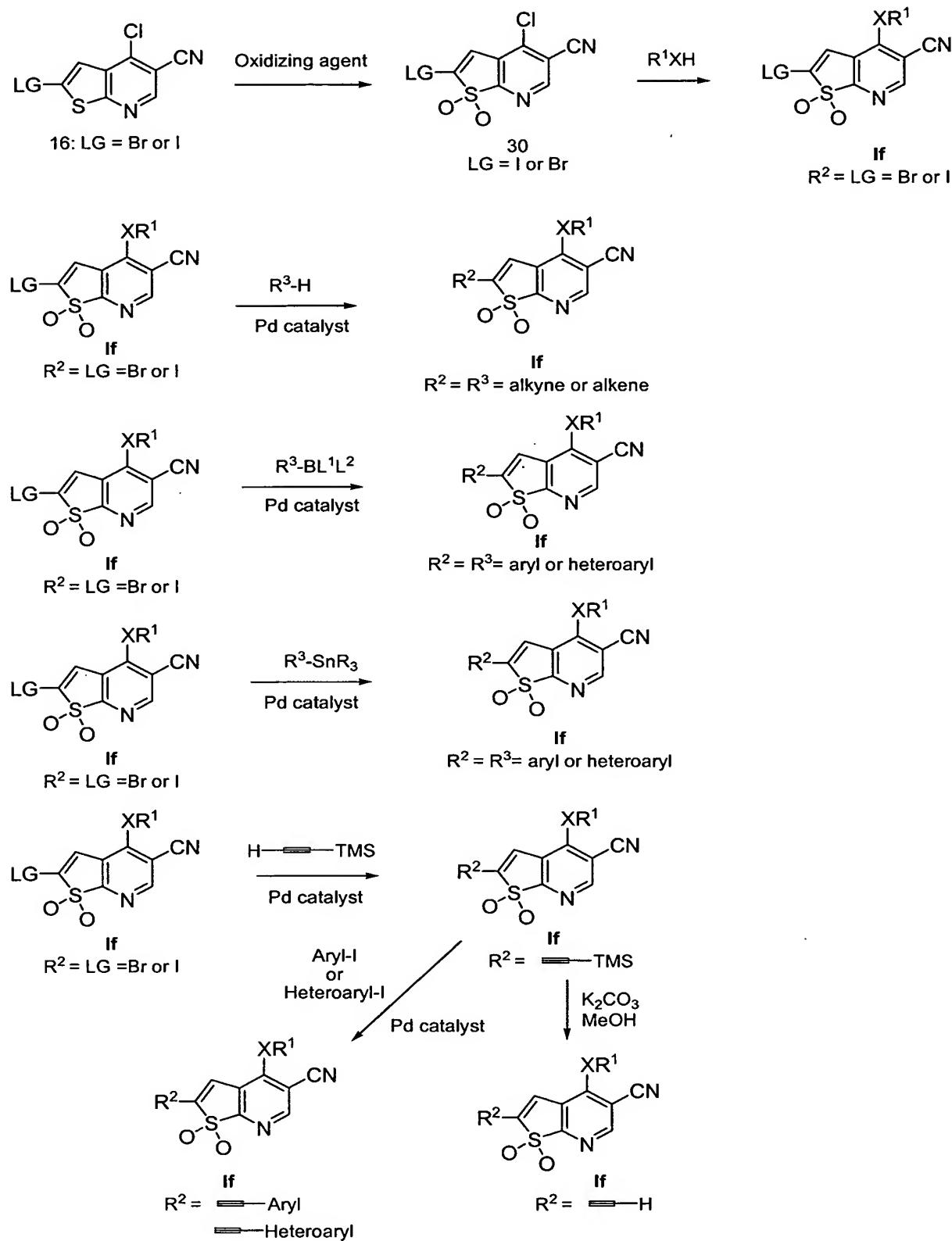
On page 71, please replace Scheme 13 with the following:

Scheme 13



On page 75, please replace Scheme 14 with the following:

Scheme 14



On page 76, please replace Scheme 15 with the following:

Scheme 15

